

was very caring about what happen with his students and what direction they were headed" (Stephanie Lopez, a former student and first grade teacher).

In return, the community was there for Loya. When it was discovered that he needed a bone marrow transplant, hundreds flocked to have their bone marrow tested during six drives in his honor. Although no matching donor was found, Loya helped to raise awareness of the need for bone marrow donors.

In the Salinas Valley a true champion is lost. My thoughts remain with his family.

HONORING THE 5TH ANNUAL "CALIFORNIA DUCK DAYS"

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an event in my district that has become one of the premier wildlife festivals in the United States. In the short span of five years, "California Duck Days" has grown from a small, community-based event to a large, regional festival offering a wide range of activities including field trips, workshops, lectures, family and youth activities, and, for the first time ever, a large Exposition Hall which includes educational displays, vendor booths, and demonstrations about wetlands and wildlife.

This year, "Duck Days" is co-hosted by the California Waterfowl Association, and it coincides with the Sacramento Valley's peak migration period for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl moving south on the Pacific Flyway. "Duck Days" showcases the wonders and diversity of our region's wetlands and it serves both to increase public awareness and to promote education about the importance of wetlands and wildlife.

Last fall, the community, and many of this year's "Duck Days" participants, braved the cold and rain to successfully dedicate the opening of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. We were joined that day by President Clinton who noted that "there is no challenge facing this country that we cannot meet, if we will just do what you have done here." The 3700 acre wetlands area that constitutes the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is the largest wetlands area in the western United States and "California Duck Days" is a continuation and expansion of the many partnerships that created the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The president's message, which stressed the power of collaboration, continues to be highlighted by the growing successes of the "Duck Days" celebrations.

With over 60 participating organizations, "Duck Days" is proof that individuals and organizations can work together to give thousands of people, young and old, the opportunity to experience these wild places, learn about them, and share their experiences with others. I commend the successful model of the Yolo Basin Foundation to my colleagues and extend the congratulations of the House of Representatives to the organizers and participants of 1998's "California Duck Days" festival.

HONORING TILLIE ROTHSTEIN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime achievements and the memory of a remarkable visionary, activist, and friend, Tillie Rothstein. Tillie was a determined and tireless trailblazer whose contributions to Broward County, and to me personally, have left a permanent impression and a rich legacy.

Tillie is a New York native who made her home and her political career in South Florida. She and her husband retired to Sunrise, Florida in 1977, but Tillie wasted no time launching into the local political arena. She served as a congressional aide and worked in public relations at Broward Federal Savings & Loan. However, she is perhaps best known for her leadership as president of the West Broward Democratic Club which now flourishes as an influential presence, due in large part to her hard work and courageous pioneering. She was unshakably loyal, and her support was one of the most sought after endorsements among those with political aspirations. Always confident and tenacious, Tillie campaigned for her candidates and the causes she championed for over twenty years, thus earning recognition as a stalwart figure in the Broward County community. I am grateful for this opportunity to applaud Tillie for her outstanding efforts and thank her for her innumerable contributions to the community. She will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO ODESSA E. TEVIS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I once heard beauty described as "unity in variety." In considering our American people, that definition could easily be expanded to describe the beauty of America—a nation of people gathered from a diversity of backgrounds united in their belief in the freedom of all human beings and their deep love for the country that protects those freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce you to an exemplary American, and a good friend, Odessa E. Tevis. Odessa is being honored on Sunday, February 1, 1998 by the Tarpon Springs Historical Society and by the community, for her 25 years of volunteerism in this area.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri on November 27, 1908, Odessa, like so many children during wartime and a troubled economy, moved several times during her childhood. Having moved from Missouri to Chicago to Iowa then back to Chicago, Odessa graduated from High School and then junior college. On the last day of 1931, she married her high school sweetheart, Harry Tevis. Harry worked for the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, and for the next eighteen years, every promotion meant yet another move to another city in Illinois.

There was one interruption—WWII—and Harry had orders to go overseas. But, before he left, he helped Odessa find a job at the

Atlas Educational Film Company in Oak Park, IL where she worked on scripts and even did a little acting when needed.

Having made several trips to this area over the years, when Harry retired in 1973, they decided the Florida Suncoast was where they wanted to live. The two cars and camper were barely unpacked when Odessa began making the community her own. Within a year her beloved Harry had passed away and Odessa filled those open hours by helping others. If someone needed a ride to the doctor or the hospital, or needed medication; or a friend to stay through an extended illness or watch a child—Odessa was there. Even today, at 89 years of age, her days are divided between at least two projects such as volunteering at an eye care clinic and a local museum. When asked why she does so much, she chuckles and matter-of-factly replies, "might as well!"

Her 25 years of involvement in many organizations, including the Women's Club of Tarpon Springs, the New Port Richey Garden Club, the Tarpon Springs Garden Club, the Friends of the Library, the Republican Women's Club of Tarpon Springs, and the Tarpon Springs Historical Society, to name a few, has endeared her to the community. Her involvement in projects for the last quarter century has resulted in countless improvements in the community and benefited many, many residents indeed.

Because of her energy and her example, Odessa has the ability to gather people from diverse backgrounds and unify them by a common goal . . . and has therefore made a beautiful difference in our community. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to join my community members and the Tarpon Springs Historical Society in honoring our own Odessa E. Tevis as an exemplary American volunteer.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as we return for the beginning of the 1998 legislative session I want to renew my call for action this year on campaign finance reform. Last year, I submitted a daily statement for the official RECORD calling on you to allow a vote on campaign finance reform. Unfortunately, we were not allowed an opportunity to vote on this important issue. I hope that 1998 will be the year we finally respond to the demands of the public, who overwhelmingly want us to fix the current campaign funding system.

In the U.S. Senate, Senator LOTT has promised a vote on this issue before March 5. I applaud his commitment to allowing a vote. I hope that the leadership in the House will also commit to a date certain. Until then, I will continue my practice of submitting a daily statement to remind the congressional leadership and the public that we have not passed campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is clear, there is too much money involved in the election campaigns. The influence of money has created the appearance of special interest influence in the democratic process. The voters no longer believe they have a voice in the system. We will not be able to turn around public opinion,

and therefore restore the public's confidence in our democracy, until we pass a meaningful campaign finance reform bill.

I urge you to schedule a vote on campaign finance reform on the floor of the House of Representatives. We must act soon. The people of western Wisconsin have told me to continue the fight until you agree to allow a vote. The people will not take "no" for an answer.

HONORING STEPHEN LEBEL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated himself to improving the quality of life in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. On January 23, 1998, Mr. Stephen LeBel will be the guest of honor as family and friends gather to celebrate his lifelong career in public service.

Stephen LeBel has never once hesitated to reach out and help someone in need. In 1970, after graduating from Michigan State University, he found work in the Flint area as an Employment Counselor for the Michigan Employment Security Commission. While with the MESCC, Stephen proved to be a valuable resource to Flint residents in the areas of placement services and vocational counseling and training. This led to a two-year stint as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Michigan Department of Education. In 1975, Stephen began his career with Insight Recovery Center, a nonprofit substance abuse treatment agency. After a short break, Stephen returned to Insight in 1977 as Director of Alcoholism Services. His achievements were recognized when he was named President and Chief Executive Officer in 1980, a position he holds to this day.

Since its inception in 1965, Insight Recovery Center has expanded its scope to include drug abuse and mental health services. This is due in large part to the exceptional leadership of Stephen LeBel. Over the years, Insight has established itself as Michigan's first independent facility to win accreditation by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals Organization. It has consistently been in the forefront of addiction treatment services.

In addition to his work with Insight, Stephen's influence extends throughout the state as well as the nation. He is a co-founder of the Michigan Campaign for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Reform. He has been affiliated with such groups as the Michigan Health and Hospital Association, National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers, and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Michigan. In the Flint community, Stephen has been associated with the Urban League of Flint and United Way. For all his efforts, he has been recognized by both houses of the Michigan Legislature. His expertise and guidance are much sought after by his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, many people, not only in the city of Flint, have been granted a new lease on life because of the dedication of Stephen LeBel. As it is our duty to preserve and protect

the quality and dignity of life for our constituents, let us remember that our task is made easier by people like Stephen. I ask my colleagues in the 105th Congress to join me in acknowledging the accomplishments of Stephen LeBel. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

KNIGHTS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Wilkes-Barre Council No. 302 of the Knights of Columbus on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary. I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this momentous event.

The Knights of Columbus have been active in the Wyoming Valley in my District in Pennsylvania since the organization's founding in 1898. The Organization has served the community in all aspects of religious and civic concerns. In January of that year, a call was sent out to prominent Catholics in the area. The notice read:

To promote sociability and patriotism among Catholic gentlemen of this city, it is proposed to form a Council of the Order of the Knights of Columbus, to be affiliated with the American Catholic organization of that name already existing.

The call was swiftly answered. Preliminary arrangements began for organization. Meetings were held every few days until the first official Council was formed and officers elected. A prominent newspaperman, Thomas P. Ryder was elected to head the council as Grand Knight.

The years to follow were filled with community activity and charitable undertakings. Council 302 had the unique distinction of having organized a complete military unit for active duty in World War I. In addition to the charity and community service activities, the members became involved in fraternal and social activities throughout the years. The Council formed many clubs which are still active to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to join with the community in extending sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Council 302's 100th anniversary. I am also pleased to have had the opportunity to bring this important event to the attention of my colleagues and send my best wishes for a most successful anniversary celebration.

COOKING THE NUMBER TO SELL A SALES TAX?

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 3, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, we must have the facts to debate the relative merits of alternative tax systems. I commend the following New York Times article to my colleagues and urge them to take a hard look at the math before endorsing the concept of a national sales tax to replace the current income tax.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 23 1998]

THE 23 PERCENT SOLUTION?

(By Robert S. McIntyre, Director, Citizens for Tax Justice)

WASHINGTON.—Suppose a bunch of rich people want to promote a national sales tax to replace the Federal income tax. How do they try to persuade the public to support such a plan? Simple: play with the arithmetic.

Earlier this month, the well-financed group Americans for Fair Taxation, based in Texas, kicked off a sales-tax campaign with a full-page advertisement in several large newspapers. It called for replacing all the main Federal taxes—personal and corporate income taxes, payroll taxes and the estate tax—with a 23 percent national retail sales tax.

According to the group, such a plan would raise exactly as much money as current laws do, while cutting taxes for just about everyone. The group's plan has been implicitly endorsed by Representative Bill Archer, a Republican from Texas, the chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee and a longtime sales-tax fan and income-tax hater.

I was curious about how the group did its arithmetic, so I checked about its Web site—www.fairtax.org—and sent a note to the E-mail address to get further information about the group's calculations.

According to the group's figures, at 1995 levels a new sales tax would have to raise \$1.36 trillion to replace all Federal income taxes, payroll taxes and estate and gift taxes. Under its plan, the group says, taxable spending would be \$4.6 trillion (after accounting for rebates to partly protect lower-income families). So, \$1.36 trillion divided by \$4.6 trillion would be the required sales tax rate. Fine, except that \$1.36 trillion divided by \$4.6 trillion is not 23 percent. It's about 30 percent.

It turns out that the group's purported 23 percent tax rate is misleading and hypothetical. It came up with that number by dividing the sales tax by the cost of a purchase plus the tax. So if the tax on a \$100 purchase is \$30, the group prefers to call it a 23 percent "tax inclusive rate" (\$30 divided by \$130). Ever hear of computing a sales tax like that?

The fact that the group's sales tax, even by its own figures, entails a 30 percent tax rate is only the beginning of the math problems. The group's backup materials also assert that almost a third of its projected sales-tax revenue is supposed to come from taxes the Government will pay to itself. Build a road, pay yourself a tax. Buy some planes for the Air Force, pay yourself some more. And so on.

Unfortunately, that shell game won't work. Without these phantom governmental tax payments, the sales tax rate would have to jump to 42 percent to break even.

A bit more digging reveals that a quarter of the remaining sales taxes are supposed to be paid on things like church services, free care at veterans hospitals and a variety of hard-to-tax financial services like free checking accounts. If we discount the taxes on these items, the sales tax rate would have to climb to an astronomical 56 percent to break even.

Apparently, the millions of dollars that American for Fair Taxes says it has spent on focus groups and polling have taught it an important lesson: giving people the real facts about a national sales tax is politically disastrous for its proponents. So the group is trying the only other available route: cooking the numbers.